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INDIA GETS HOLD OF FIRST BATCH OF RAFALE AIRCRAFT

Five Rafale combat jets landed at the Ambala Air Force base at 3.10 pm on Wednesday, after covering a distance of 7,000 km from the Merignac airbase in France, giving India's air power a strategic edge in the midst of a bitter border row with China in eastern Ladakh and frayed ties with Pakistan

WATER CANNON SALUTE FOR THE NEW JETS

Each jet was given a special water cannon salute at the strategically located air base in the presence of IAF top brass. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted in Sanskrit that there is no virtue like protecting the nation and there is no vow like defence of the nation. The NDA government had inked the ₹59,000-crore deal on September 23, 2016, to procure 36 Rafale jets from French aerospace major Dassault Aviation after a nearly seven-year exercise to procure 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft for the Indian Air Force did not fructify during the UPA regime

INDIA'S VEILED MESSAGE TO CHINA

- "The Birds have landed safely in Ambala," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted as soon as the aircraft touched down at the Indian Air Force air base at Ambala in Haryana
- The minister also sent a veiled message to China, saying those who want to threaten India's territorial integrity should be worried about the new capability of the Indian Air Force
- The fleet, comprising three single-seater and two twin-seater aircraft, will be inducted into the IAF's No 17 Squadron | P9

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OUT OF THE 36 RAFALE JETS ORDERED BY INDIA WILL BE FIGHTER JETS, WHILE SIX WILL BE TRAINERS. THE TWIN-SEATER TRAINER JETS WILL HAVE MOST FEATURES OF THE FIGHTER JETS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Swachha Gramasutra 2
Everyone, everyday everytime use Toilet
SAFETY IS INSIDE
DON'T GO OUTSIDE
Share your 'Safety' story of using toilets

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of Karnataka
parihara +91 94809 85555
www.swachhamevajayate.org GovtOfKarnatakaRdpr GokRDPR @gokRDPR

Unlock 3.0 to mark end of night curfew

There were slim pickings from the guidelines for Unlock 3.0 that begins from August 1. A look

✓ FRESH ACTIVITIES

NIGHT CURFEW FINALLY ENDS

Yoga institutes, gyms can open from **AUGUST 5**

INDEPENDENCE DAY FUNCTIONS ALLOWED

International air travel of passengers has been permitted in a limited manner under the Vande Bharat mission. Further opening up will take place in a calibrated manner

✗ NOT PERMITTED

Social, political, sporting, entertainment, academic, cultural and religious functions not allowed till August 31

Schools, colleges and coaching institutes will remain closed till **AUGUST 31**

METRO RAIL STAYS SUSPENDED

Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places to stay shut

BENGALURU CITY LIKELY TO GET NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER SOON

Incumbent commissioner Bhaskar Rao will complete his one-year tenure on August 2. Sources said that ADGP, State Intelligence, Kamal Pant, is a top contender | P3

Policy to reform school, higher edu gets Cabinet nod

10+2 model out, 5+3+3+4 system in; multiple entry & exit options in bachelor's courses; UGC, AICTE to merge into one higher edu body

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA
@New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the New Education Policy, a vision document to guide the country's education blueprint for the coming years, bringing closure to an exercise that began during the first tenure of the Narendra Modi government.

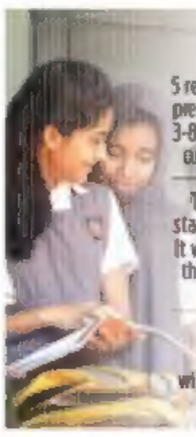
The approval of the near 400-page document paves the way for restructuring of school education from the current 10+2 model to 5+3+3+4, covering ages 3-18 and renaming the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development as Education Ministry.

The NEP will also facilitate establishment of a central regulatory body for all school boards, called National Assessment Centre, to ensure uniform education levels across the country.

The government has also planned to introduce vocational training from Class VI with internships. The big idea is to reduce textbook content to core concepts, with greater emphasis on experiential learning.

In higher education, the NEP will allow multiple entry and exit options in bachelor's programmes, multi-disciplinary courses, option of three or four years for UG courses and discontinuation of MPhil programme.

"The changes we are proposing in the education sector through the NEP will bring not only incremental, but transformational changes in the field," said Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.



What's 5+3+3+4

5 represents the foundational stage (in two parts - 3 years of Anganwadi or pre-school + 2 years in primary school in Classes I-II, together covering ages 3-8): It will have flexible, multilevel play or activity-based learning and the curriculum and pedagogy of national early childhood care and education

The first 3 stands for the preparatory stage (Classes III-V, covering ages 8-11). It will have experiential learning across the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences, and humanities

The second 3 is the middle stage (Classes VI-VIII, covering ages 11-14) with subject-oriented pedagogical and curricular style

4 is the secondary stage (Class IX-XII in two phases - IX and X in the first, and XI and XII in the second, covering ages 14-18). It will have more emphasis on depth, critical thinking. Flexibility in choice of subjects enhanced

Other takeaways

No rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools; vocational education to start from Class VI with internships

Teaching up to at least Class V in mother tongue or regional language

Report cards will be a comprehensive report on skills and capabilities instead of just marks and statements

Students will get more flexibility in the choice of subjects, particularly in secondary school, including physical education, the arts and crafts, and vocational skills.

Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Class V, but preferably till Class VIII and beyond, will be the mother tongue or local language, says the new policy which replaces the earlier policy adopted in 1986 and modified in 1992.

The NEP says textbooks will include knowledge from ancient India and modern India, as well as Indian knowledge systems. Also, all students will take school examinations in Classes III, V, and VIII. Board exams for Classes X and XII will be made "easier", as they will test core competencies rather than months of coaching or rote learning.

In the higher education sector, UGC, AICTE and the National Council for Teacher's Education will be merged into a single higher education commission. P9

No student who appears at an examination centre with a valid hall ticket should be prevented from attending the test for any reason
- The Karnataka High Court

State can go ahead with CET, rules HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE cloud over K-CET cleared with the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday declining to entertain a batch of PILs, seeking directions to the state government to postpone the Common Entrance Test in view of the situation created by the Covid pandemic. The crucial test for admissions to professional colleges will now be held as per schedule on Thursday and Friday.

The court, however, made it clear that no student who appears at an examination centre with a valid hall ticket should be prevented from attending the test for any reason.

In a statement before the court, the state government said that 1,84,368 students who have downloaded the hall tickets, including 1,881 from outside Karnataka and 51 students who have tested positive for Covid, are expected to appear for the test to be held at 497 centres across the state. Among 1,881 students from other states, 1,300 students are taking the test in Bengaluru. Around 30,000 students changed their examination centres and 75 new centres were added to accommodate their choice, the government stated.

As many as 40 students who have tested positive will write the test, and they will be provided with food. Invigilators at these special centres set up for Covid-positive students will come in two shifts, wear PPE throughout, collect papers and maintain hygiene as per the SOP, said Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan on Wednesday. P2

A day before the start of the K-CET, a staffer at Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College readies the exam hall in Bengaluru on Wednesday | SHIVAKUMAR M

GOVT DOES U-TURN, PUTS TIPU BACK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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FOLLOWING criticism from all quarters, the Karnataka government has taken a complete U-turn on the omission of chapters on the characters from Karnataka history, Tipu Sultan and Haider Ali, and included them back in the Class 7 syllabus.

Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said that it was not the final syllabus and has been withdrawn from the Karnataka Text Book Society (KTBS) website. "We have not finalised which lessons will be truncated. It is unclear as to how many working days, schools may get this academic year. Depending on the number of days available, a decision will be made scientifically. None of the lessons will be cut unnecessarily and there will be no scope for any confusion. The syllabus was accidentally put on the website and I have asked our officials to take it down," the minister said.

"There is no question of covering up the history of any person, record, or fact. Our government will not do the work of destroying society. It should not be given any unnecessary political colour," he said. P3

Modi brainstorming on MSME stress and loan moratorium with top bankers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met top bankers to discuss loan moratorium, the proposal for single-window clearance for MSME loans and the issue to closure of MSME units due to lockdown. The meeting, conducted via video-conference, was attended by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar, PNB chief S S Mallikarjuna Rao, ICICI Bank's Sandeep Bakhshi and HDFC Bank boss Aditya Puri, besides top officials of the Finance Ministry and the PMO.

"It was a brainstorming session to take stock of the liquidity situation, loan disbursement and moratorium during lockdown," a senior official present in the meeting told *TNIE*.

Sources in the PMO said the meeting will happen again on Thursday which will be attended by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, Sebi chief Ajay Tyagi, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari. The meeting is scheduled in the backdrop of the economic stress due to Covid-19.

KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

5,503 Test Positive on Wednesday

TOTAL CASES 1,12,504

42,901 Total Recoveries

2,147 Total Deaths

Bengaluru Urban breaches 50k mark, with 51,091 total cases so far

Devaraja Market in Mysuru closed for public, as people fail to maintain social distancing

Bed capacity increased at Covid hospital in Madikeri

MORE ON P4

Central bankers are not servants of govt: Acharya

G S VASU, JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY & SUNITHA NATTI

THEY say it's better to lose the battle to win a war. Dr Viral Acharya, former deputy governor of RBI, perhaps believes it in letter and spirit. He quit his post prematurely last July, nine months after his rule-breaking speech that brought out simmering differences with the government into spotlight. An open debate, he said in an exclusive interview with *TNIE*, was the only option left when bureaucratic pressures became unrelenting spanning multiple functions of RBI.

"I'm glad we did it and I'll do it again if I have the opportunity to do so. I think voice and dissent are important parts of a country for right decision-making," he said.

On 'vested interests' influencing central banking decisions, he said government horizons can be short at times and that's when they don't want to follow rules and use discretion even if that leads to short-term risks. This became unacceptable and when matters came to a head, Acharya and then Governor Urjit Patel quit.

"We know that the pressures coming from the bureaucracy and government are in their own vested short-term interests. Central banks are run by public servants and we have a legal constitutional mandate which we take seriously... Then we know that the pressures are unrelenting and at some point, we have to draw a line. Public servant is a servant of the public, not a servant of the bureaucrat or of the government," he noted, adding every compromise made today is a starting point for re-negotiations tomorrow. P12

Politics and economics are aligned right now. This is a golden opportunity to restructure our institutions on fiscal reform path — Viral Acharya, former deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India

It's in his stars, state scholar set date for Ayodhya Bhoomi Puja

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

WHEN Prime Minister Narendra Modi places a silver brick marking the Bhoomi Puja of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya between 8 am and 12 noon on August 5, he will be going by the auspicious time and calendar set by Karnataka's own N R Vijayendra Sharma of Belagavi.

The 75-year-old Pandit Sharma, who has been associated with the Ramjanma Bhoomi movement over the last many years, was approached by the organisers in February this year to set the date for the religiously significant event. He had picked Akshaya Tritiya, which fell in April this year, for the foundation-laying ceremony. But then the lockdown was announced because of the Covid pandemic and the event had to be put on hold.

"I gave four more dates of July 29, July 31, August 1 and August 5. All the four muhurtas are auspicious and fell in the Shravana Masa, which is an auspicious month in the Hindu calendar. August 5 is also apt for Vaastu Muhurta and ideal for Bhoomi Puja. The foundation has to be laid before 12 noon, after which Rahu Kala sets in," Pandit Sharma told *The New Indian Express*. But he will not be able to attend the event because of Covid.

Pandit Sharma said that he has been a close aide of Swamy Govind Dev Giriji, who is one of the members of Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust.

He has been the go-to astrologer for many prominent politicians across the political spectrum. He has advised former PMs Morarji Desai and also Atal Bihari Vajpayee. P2